

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A semiconductor integrated circuit includes a differential calculating unit which obtains a differential between a value of a pixel of interest and values of surrounding pixels contained in an image signal supplied from an image sensor, a dead-zone generating unit which defines a predetermined range of pixel values, and a comparison unit which checks whether the differential falls outside the predetermined range, wherein contour enhancement is applied to the pixel of interest in response to a determination by the comparison unit that the differential falls outside the predetermined range.